



Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Dean Cannon
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

March 8, 2012

The Honorable Dean Cannon
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 1994, 1st Eng., same being:

An act relating to postsecondary education.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 1.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

Representative Denise Grimsley, Chair

Representative William L. Proctor, Acting Co-Chair

Representative Larry Ahern

Representative Dwight M. Bullard

Representative Chris Dorworth, At-Large

Representative Shawn Harrison

Representative Dorothy L. Hukill, At-Large

Representative John Legg, At-Large

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Representative Jose R. Oliva

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Representative Will W. Weatherford, At-Large

Representative H. Marlene O'Toole, Chair

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Senator Paula Dockery

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Senator Eleanor Sobel

Senator Ronda Storms

Senator John Thrasher, At-Large

Senator Stephen R. Wise

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 1994, Postsecondary Education, provides for the following:

- Creates the Florida Polytechnic University. All laws governing a university will apply, including the establishment of a board of trustees and a president.
- Requires Florida Polytechnic University to meet the milestones in the Board of Governor's motion by December 31, 2016.
- Requires the University of South Florida (USF) to allow current USF Polytechnic students to complete their degree at USF.
- Transfers real and personal property, licenses and associated revenues, existing contracts, unexpended balances, appropriations, allocations, funds, and mutually agreed-upon obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of USF Polytechnic to Florida Polytechnic University.
- Requires USF to retain the current faculty and staff, except for faculty and staff of the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute which are transferred to the new Florida Polytechnic University.
- Requires USF to transfer Polytechnic-related foundation funds to a new Florida Polytechnic University foundation after obtaining donor consent.
- Cancels all memorandums of understanding between USF and USF Polytechnic upon this act becoming law.
- Authorizes a university board of trustees to expend reserve or carry-forward balances from prior year operational and programmatic appropriations for legislatively approved fixed capital outlay projects authorized for the establishment of a new campus.
- Requires Florida Polytechnic University to allow the University of South Florida to use space at the Lakeland joint-use facility pursuant to a mutual agreement for the purpose of continuing the local education of existing USF Polytechnic students. Florida Polytechnic University shall transfer space at the Lakeland joint-use facility to Polk State College as new space becomes available on the new campus of Florida Polytechnic University.
- Authorizes the University of Florida to serve in an advisory/consulting capacity to the new university on certain issues.
- Provides civil immunity for USF and Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees, officers, and other employees for actions pertaining to this act.
- Appropriates \$6 million in recurring funds for USF College of Pharmacy.
- Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds for USF for the purpose of allowing students enrolled in University of South Florida Polytechnic to complete their degrees at USF. This funding is contingent upon USF implementing the transfers required in the bill and upon USF maintaining full campus and program operations, including the retention of current faculty and staff of USF Polytechnic until June 30, 2012.

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March 8, 2012

The Honorable Dean Cannon
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on HB 5201, same being:

An act relating to postsecondary education funding.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment 1.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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<i>Representative Denise Grimsley, Chair</i>	<i>Representative H. Marlene O'Toole, Chair</i>
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Senator Eleanor Sobel

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Senator John Thrasher, At-Large

Senator Stephen R. Wise

The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 5201, Postsecondary Education Funding, provides for the following:

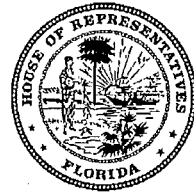
- Establishes the Florida Virtual Campus to provide access to online student and library support services and serve as a statewide resource and clearinghouse for postsecondary education distance learning courses and degree programs and to increase student access and completion of degrees.
- Establishes a Degree Completion Pilot Program to recruit, recover, and retain adult learners and assist them in completing degrees aligned to high-wage, high-skill, and workforce needs.
- Increases the surcharge for excess credit hours.
- Authorizes the Board of Governors to transfer unused Student and Other Fees Trust Fund authority between institutions, and restricts universities' ability to transfer funds in excess of \$1 million to and from satellite campuses.
- Maintains the salary limitation on the amount of state funds that may be used for salaries of Florida College System and State University presidents and administrative employees in Fiscal Year 2012-13.
- Provides that a full-time student, co-enrolled in a K-12 education program and an adult general education program, may be reported for funding for two courses in an adult education program in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.
- Shortens the length of time from 3 years to 2 years that a student is eligible to accept the initial Bright Futures Scholarship after high school graduation.
- Clarifies that students enrolled in the Spring/Summer University of Florida pilot program are authorized to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship award for only two semesters each year.
- Clarifies that students are required to annually submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Limits allowable uses for the Bright Futures Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship to vocational programs.
- Requires the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers (FFMT) and the Florida Education Fund (FEF) to provide financial reports on an annual basis.
- Requires the FFMT to use a contingency collection agency to recoup scholarship repayments from students in default.
- Eliminates a statutory FEF law scholarship program which is no longer utilized.
- Revises matching requirements for the FEF, the Jose Marti and Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Programs.
- Requires coalitions to maximize purchasing power for higher education institutions.
- Requires the Auditor General to notify the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee of any audit review which indicates that a state university or state college has failed to take corrective action in response to a recommendation which was included in the two preceding audit reports.
- Requires audits with significant findings for the Florida College System, State University System, and School Boards to be presented and discussed in a public board meeting.
- Authorizes the University of Florida to exceed the 5% bonding limitation on the Activity and Service (A&S) fee to fund the renovation and expansion of the student union.

- Establishes a Workforce Education scholarship pilot program for Adults with Disabilities for up to 30 students for 2 years in Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.
- Allows universities to enter into local development agreements to identify and negotiate plans to mitigate the impact of specific projects and the corresponding affects on local governments, notwithstanding ss. 1013.30 and 1013.51, F.S.
- Increases the limit of the Capital Improvement Fee from 10% to 20% of tuition for Florida colleges, and for state universities indexes the Capital Improvement Fee to 10% of tuition, but limits increases to no more than \$2 per credit hour per year.
- Authorizes university budget transfers in the current fiscal year up to \$2 million.
- Provides for name change of South Florida Community College to South Florida State College, contingent upon accreditation by SACS.
- Requires employment agreements, contracts, renewals or renegotiation of existing contracts for presidents, administrative and instructional staff to include provisions relating to severance required in s. 215.425, F.S.
- Deletes a provision providing for a Florida College System institution in some circumstances to apply for an exemption from SBOE approval of additional baccalaureate degree programs.

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The Honorable Dean Cannon
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Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on CS/HB 5203, same being:

An act relating to reemployment services.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment 1.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 5203, Reemployment Services, provides for the following:

- Repeals and terminates the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund within the Department of Education.
- Amends s. 440.491, Florida Statutes, as follows.
 - Removes the Department of Education from the definition of "Department", which transfers responsibilities for training and education of injured workers to the Department of Financial Services;
 - Authorizes the Department of Financial Services to contract with one or more third parties to administer functions of training and education.
 - Requires that persons or firms selected to administer reemployment services may not have a conflict of interest.
 - Prohibits a rehabilitation provider who contracts with the department to provide injured employees reemployment assessments and other services from providing training or education to the injured employee.
- Appropriates \$350,000 in recurring funds from the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund and 5 full-time positions and associated salary rate of 260,000 to the Department of Financial Services.
- Provides an effective date.